Crash of Aircraft near Mainpuri in U.P.

152. SMT. JAYAPRADA NAHATA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether an enquiry into the air crash on 30th September, 2001 near Mainpuri in U.P. in which Madhavrao Scindia and seven others were killed has been ordered;

(b) whether this crash has exposed and caused concern on the airworthiness of smaller aircraft used by private operators and private agencies; and

(c) what steps have been taken or are proposed to be taken to ensure that old and small aircraft are airworthy?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) to (c) The aircrash is under investigation by a Committee of Inquiry constituted under Rule 74 of Aircraft Rules 1937. The Committee has not yet submitted its final report.

Subsidy to Haj Pilgrims

153. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to change its policy on subsidies to Haj Pilgrims and the taxpayers who wish to undertake this pilgrimage to Haj will have to pay full fares with immediate effect;

(b) whether as against a full fare of Rs. 33,000.00 Government subsidy amounts to Rs. 21,000.00 per passenger; and

(c) if so, the details of the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) The government has decided that the pilgrim fare during Haj-2002 movement will be Rs. 12,000/- per head. The balance amount will be paid by the Government as subsidy.

Modernisation of IA's Fleets

154. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to enhance its equity capital in Indian Airlines by Rs. 325 crores and to review IA's long pending plan to modernise their fleet by the induction of new aircraft; and

(b) if so, what is the position of privatisation?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) Government has decided in principle to infuse Rs. 325 crore as equity in Indian Airlines in the form of margin money for acquisition of new aircraft.

(b) No bidder for Indian Airlines is left in the fray. Decision regarding restarting of the process or otherwise has not been taken.

Safety of Airports

† 155. SHRI BACHANILEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering to make any special arrangement for the safety of airports;

(b) if so, whether any action has been taken by Government in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) to (c) Adequate security arrangements have been in place to ensure the safety of airports. These arrangements are reviewed and upgraded on an on-going basis, depending on the threat perception. The following additional measures *have, inter alia,* been taken to further improve the safety of airports:—

(i) Deployment of Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) at all operational airports in a timebound manner.

(ii) Deployment of Quick Reaction Teams at major airports.

(iii) Strengthening of perimeter security.

(iv) Stricter access control.

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.